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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 1, 2022

For Such A Time As This

by Rev. Kim Wood

What an exciting time this is! September 27, 2022, marked one year that I have served side-by-side with you as your “new” Conference Minister! I continue to be humbled by the Holy Spirit’s movement to bring me to the Southeast Conference, UCC. It is such a gift to be here, and I have no doubt that I am right where God is calling me to be. Thank you for the warm enfolding that you have bestowed on me, and for the grace you show me every day as I continue to learn about and come to know you. I pray that we will be blessed with ever-deepening relationships as we follow Christ, love unconditionally, serve boldly, and lift the UCC voice of justice and hope in the South.



It is a very active time in this conference, as it is across the United Church of Christ. As I write this article, our folks, our congregations, and our ministry settings in eastern Georgia and South Carolina are bracing for the U.S. landfall of Hurricane Ian, even as we are viewing the overwhelming evidence of how catastrophic this storm has already been in Florida and all along its path before that. We are also still responding to the chaos and horrendous conditions foisted upon our siblings in the Jackson, MS area, where the water crisis continues, requiring not only more immediate flood cleanup and safe water supplies, but also a long-term response to the unjust and harmful water system. If you are interested in making a gift for either of these disaster response needs, I invite you to do so by going to our website and clicking on the [DONATE](#) button. Please be sure to specify if you want it directed to a specific disaster response area, or simply Disaster

Response if you would like it to be utilized for either or both concern (Jackson or Hurricane Ian). And please, pray for all the people whose lives have been upended by these disasters, for the families who have lost loved ones, and for the municipalities and organizations providing support during these times.

While we are engaged in caring for our siblings and our neighbors in need, we are also celebrating the many ways that connections are being made and relationships forged. On September 27th-29 clergywomen from across the UCC gathered in Decatur, GA for the UCC Antoinette Brown Society event, ***For Such A Time As This: To Confront, Connect, and Create at the Intersection of Race and Gender***. This amazing conference was both a testimony to the strength of women who are clergy, and, even more so, clergywomen of color. It is also an ongoing bold movement of clergywomen in the UCC to change the system and change the world. A huge thank you to the ABS Planning Team for this event, the leadership of MESA at the National Setting, and the clergywomen from the Southeast Conference who were able to attend and are now charged to carry forth what was only started in those three powerful days!

CONNECTION and RELATIONSHIP... this is the foundation for how we are called to be the Southeast Conference together. Connection and relationship...within our local churches and ministry settings, between them, out in our communities, and together as the Southeast Conference. Whether we are gathered in worship, working for justice when lives are at risk and dignity is withheld, wrapping our arms around those who are devastated by unimaginable circumstances, or being present with folk in times of need, connection and relationship is where we must start that we might do our best work of being Christ-followers and transformation-facilitators in this world. As we do this, together, I pray for you, my siblings, and I ask that you pray for me, too.

News from the Conference Office

Special Called Meeting of the Conference

The Southeast Conference UCC Board of Directors has called a special meeting of the Southeast Conference on **Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 7:30 PM Eastern Time/ 6:30 PM Central Time**. The meeting will be held virtually on Zoom, with a link that will be provided upon registration.

The sole purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote upon an urgent

matter regarding the 24th General Synod of the United Church of Christ to be held June 30 – July 4, 2023 online and onsite in Indianapolis, IN. The Conference will vote on the sponsorship of a resolution to be submitted to the 34th General Synod regarding the injustices and harm directed at people who are of transgender and non-binary experience. This will be the only item on the agenda for consideration. Registration materials and meeting materials will be distributed prior to the meeting.



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2022. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

Week of October 2

- Holy Trinity Community Church; Nashville, Tennessee
- Martha Sue Carter
- Joseph Ingle
- Kenneth Samuel
- Clarice Mitchell
- Jane Acuff

Week of October 9

- Peace Congregational UCC; Clemson, South Carolina
- Retired Servants Event; Blowing Rock Conference Center
- Jennifer Sanders
- Lyle Weible

- Nancy Elsenheimer
- Salome As-Salaam

Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville TN; First United Church, Belvidere TN; Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill TN; Deer Lodge Congregational Church, Deer Lodge TN; Brookmeade Congregational, Nashville TN; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; Sandy Creek, Lafayette AL

News from Our Local Congregations



Upper Room UCC Fellowship Tent Revival Brunch (UCC-style!)

by Tony England

After not meeting for almost three years due to Covid, the Upper Room UCC Fellowship had a great reunion of Nashville-area UCC churches on Sept 17th @ 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity Community Church. With 41 in attendance, it was a great gathering of Nashville's three UCC churches: Brookmeade Congregational Church, Holy Trinity Community Church, and Howard Congregational Church. The day's theme was "Revive Us Again!" as all gathered for brunch under a covid-safe outdoor tent for a **tent revival**, not in a fundamentalist fashion, but in UCC-style with enlightened thought, sincerity & love!

Following brunch, all joined in singing the old hymn "Revive Us Again!", after which Pastor Robert Hall of Howard Congregational Church gave a powerful prayer for the revival of the Church! Southeast UCC Conference Minister Kim Wood then gave the keynote address on the same theme, and spirits individually & collectively were indeed revived!



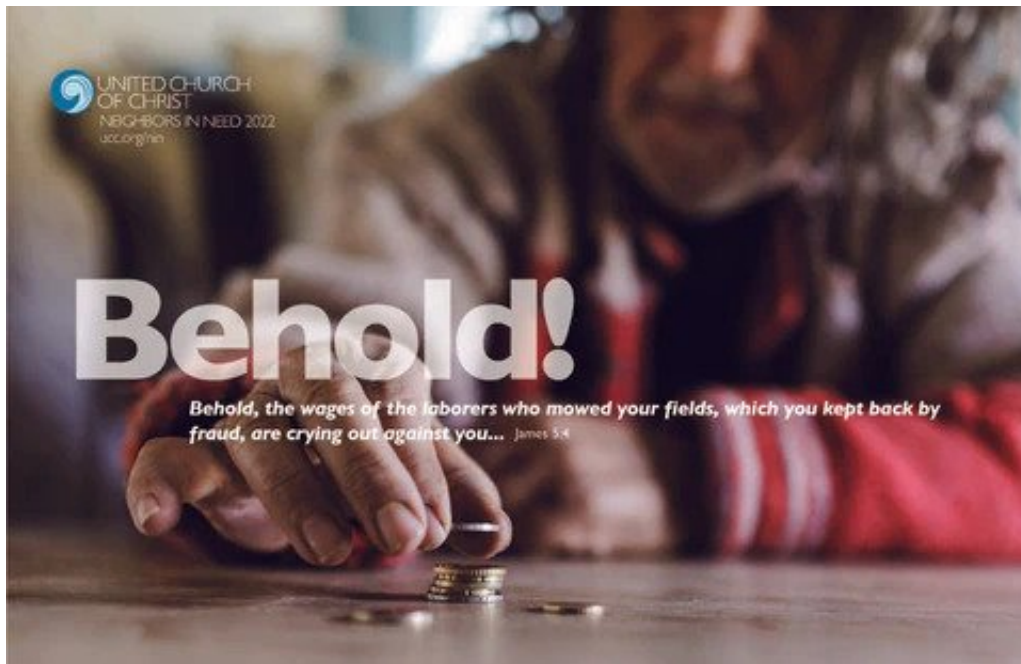
UCC Highlights Peace Church's Tiny House Project

The United Church of Christ recently highlighted on its news feed an article written by Jody Usher, Moderator of Peace Church in Clemson, SC, that tells the story of their Tiny House project.

We gave away the tiny house this year! Peace Church originally imagined it as a mobile shelter for LGBTQ+ folks who needed short-term safe housing. As moderator, I served on the grant writing team and helped recruit young participants via PRISM, our church's Clemson University student ministry. Tyler Rodgers, then a senior architectural student, dreamed and drew up the tiny house. With the South Carolina Botanical Garden, we found space to build it and use power. Our early estimate was to build in less than a year. [Read the full story here.](#)



News from the Wider Church



Neighbors in Need 2022 Sunday is October 2

The Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this topic through a faith lens.

Join us by promoting this year's campaign at your church. Explore the promotional toolkit, which contains a four-week bible study, coloring book, three posters, social media banners, and a leader's guide. These materials will assist you in planning and carrying out the 2022 NIN campaign.

Most churches will collect the offering on October 2nd, 2022, as a part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time.

[Learn more from UCC Resources.](#)

We are Praying for Those Impacted by Hurricane Ian in Florida

The UCC Disaster Ministry team sends our love, support, and prayers for those impacted by the hurricane and ask that you do the same. The devastation from this storm is historic and Southwest Florida will be rebuilding for some time.

The United Church of Christ stands at the point of need with the message that, no matter what, God is with us. Disaster Ministries participates in long-term recovery efforts, supplying much needed funding and volunteers as we work to fulfil our mission: *Responding to the call of our Christ-centered faith, UCC Disaster Ministries supports holistic community recovery by engaging supporters, volunteers, and partners to focus on preparedness, emergency relief, and long-term recovery.*

Please Help:

- Pray for those impacted.
- Put together CWS kits and clean-up buckets. [Learn more.](#)
- Help is needed to move some of the kits we have received to the CWS warehouse in Maryland. If you can help, please reach out to [Karl Jones.](#)
- Donate: [Donate Now – United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#)
- Sign up to Volunteer: <https://support.ucc.org/volunteer-opportunity-form>
- Volunteer Opportunities: [UCC Ministry Opportunities](#)
- Have your congregation join the Willing to Respond Network of Churches: [Willing to Respond Preparedness Network](#)

Trainings, Conferences & Events

PATHWAYS Theological Education Classes Available

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. invites you to explore its Progressive Christian theological education courses. PATHWAYS courses are affordable, asynchronous, and completely online to fit the schedules of busy people! Each course offers participants the opportunity to develop competency in the subject matter as well as the chance to meet and work with a diverse group from across the United States.

Whether you are called to a pastoral role, a congregational or community leader seeking new skills, or a curious inquirer, PATHWAYS has courses to expand your thinking, enhance your knowledge, and exhilarate your soul.

- [Course Schedule](#) Look for PATHWAYS Winter I Term (January 2023) including UCC History and Polity and a new Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE accredited CPE). Spring and Summer 2023 schedules are coming soon!
- [Ministerial Preparation](#) The PATHWAYS core three-level curriculum for ministerial preparation, leadership development, and continuing education.

There is time to sign up for courses, the registration process is easy, and courses can begin the same day you register. Contact Melissa Ashmore, Registrar at registrar@pathwaystheological.org with questions.

Our participants include students in preparation for ordination to the ministry as pastors;

- ordained pastors with a passion for continuing education;
- church members whose gifts include Bible Study leadership, youth ministry, children's ministry, and worship design;
- seminary students seeking additional education;
- community leaders whose work includes building coalitions across faith traditions; and
- those exploring calls to chaplaincy in hospitals, hospices, prisons, and other specialized settings.

If you are discerning a call to ministry, interested in deepening your foundation for Christian Education or just want to explore your own Christian faith, **PATHWAYS** Theological Education, Inc. is the right place!

Conference Calendar

October 4 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

October 10 - October 12

[Retired Servants Retreat](#)

October 11 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

October 14 - October 16

[UCC Southern Region Women's Retreat](#)

October 18 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

October 20 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm EDT

[Live Harp Meditations for Ministers](#)

October 25 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am EDT

[Zoom Conversation for Specialized Ministers](#)

October 25 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

October 27 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[Special Called Meeting of the Conference](#)

View the full calendar of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

Contact Us

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